

In the Claims:

1. (Original) In a cellular telephone including a microphone, a modulator, an antenna, and an RF amplifier, the device serving to receive audio and transmit an RF signal conveying audio modulation, an improvement comprising a steganographic encoder for hiding plural bits of auxiliary data within the audio modulation of said RF signal.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 in which said plural bits comprise data used to discourage piracy of cellular telephony service.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1 in which said plural bits comprise data identifying the cellular telephone.

4. (Original) A method of operating a cellular telephone, said telephone including a microphone coupled to a transmitter, and a receiver coupled to a transducer, the telephone serving to transmit a wireless signal modulated with a voice signal using an antenna, the method characterized by altering the voice signal to steganographically embed a multi-symbol auxiliary data string therein, wherein transmission of the wireless voice signal also conveys the auxiliary data string hidden therein.

5. (Original) In a battery-powered wireless reception device sized for fitting in a user's pocket or purse, the device including an RF amplifier, an antenna, a demodulator, and a speaker, the device serving to receive RF transmissions and output an audio signal conveyed thereby, an improvement comprising a steganographic decoder for discerning multi-symbol auxiliary data conveyed as slight alterations to said audio signal.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5 that further includes a processor to which data output by the steganographic decoder is provided.

7. (Original) In a method of operating a battery-powered wireless reception device sized for fitting in a user's pocket or purse, the device including an RF amplifier, a demodulator, an antenna, and a speaker, the device serving to receive RF transmissions and output an audio signal conveyed thereby, an improvement comprising steganographically decoding multi-symbol auxiliary data from said audio signal, and controlling some aspect of the device in accordance therewith.

8. (New) A method comprising:  
providing a digital information that is to be wirelessly transmitted to a portable device, and at said portable device be rendered in human-perceptible form to a consumer;  
steganographically encoding said digital information with said plural-bit auxiliary data, prior to being wirelessly transmitted;  
at said portable device, recovering said auxiliary data that was steganographically encoded in said digital information;  
storing said auxiliary data in said portable device; and  
using said stored auxiliary data to control an aspect of the portable device's operation.

9. (New) The method of claim 8 that includes using said stored auxiliary data to reprogram parameters of said portable device.

10. (New) The method of claim 8 that includes transmitting digital information to plural portable devices, wherein each set of said transmitted digital information is steganographically encoded with the same plural-bit auxiliary data.